

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed November 20, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 7 and 22 are canceled. Claims 1, 4, 8, 13, 14, 15, 19, 21, 23, and 26 have been amended. Claims 1-6, 8-21, and 23-27 are pending in this application, with claims 1 and 13 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed November 20, 2003, claims 1-7, 10, 11, 13, 17-22, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,505,040 (Kim).

Claims 8, 12, 14-16, 23, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Kim in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,275,575 (Wu).

Claims 9, 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Kim in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,608,820 (Bradshaw).

Before discussing the cited prior art and the Examiner's rejections of the claims in view of that art, a brief summary of the present invention is appropriate. The present invention relates to a method and device for setting up a telephone conference between more than two telecommunication subscribers. The group of participants to be included in the conference is stored in a list (see page 3, lines 7-9 and page 8, lines 7-13 of the specification). To initiate a telephone conference, the user may call a virtual number not associated with any participant on the list to trigger the setting-up of the mobile conference (page 3, lines 17-20). In response to the dialing of the virtual number, an element at the telecommunication server end transmits an invitation message to each participant in the list associated with the virtual number (page 3, line 21 to page 4, line 4 and page 10, lines 8-19). The invitation may be sent via WAP. Participants that accept the invitation

are connected to the telephone conference (page 11, lines 7-9). The acceptance by the user may, for example, include pressing a key (see page 12, line 3).

Independent claims 1 and 13 have each been amended to recite that invitations are sent to the participants of a list during the preparation for setting-up the conference and that only those participants that input an acceptance of the invitation are connected to the conference. These limitations were originally recited in claims 7 and 22.

Kim discloses a method of making a multiparty conference call on a mobile phone. According to Kim, a list of conference participants is stored in a subscriber table (col. 2, lines 1-2). Kim discloses, starting at col. 2, line 47, that the method for making multiparty calls includes setting the mobile phone to the multiparty conference mode and searching, by the mobile phone, a subscriber table to determine the number to call (see col. 2, lines 47-51). A set-up command is sent to the first remote party (col. 2, lines 51-53). Upon receiving confirmation of the set-up command generated by the network, the mobile phone transmits a hold request (col. 2, lines 53-56). The above steps are repeated for each subscriber on the list. If no confirmation is received from the network for a subscriber, the mobile phone makes three attempts and then excludes that subscriber from the conference (col. 2, line 64 to col. 3, line 3).

The Examiner states that Kim discloses sending an invitation to a subscriber and connected the subscriber only if the invitation is accepted. However, the invitation sent by Kim is a set-up command which is confirmed by the network. Kim does not teach or suggest that the subscriber accepts or rejects the invitation. Rather Kim discloses only that the network confirms that the connection is made. Although Kim calls the set-up command an invitation, there is no teaching or suggestion that Kim requests and acceptance of the invitation from the subscriber, as

expressly recited in independent claims 1 and 13. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 13 are not anticipated by Kim under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Wu and Bradshaw also disclose methods and systems for initiating and controlling a multi-point telephone conference which can be initiated by one of the participants from a remote device. However, neither of these references requires the subscriber to input an acceptance of the invitation. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 13 are allowable over Kim in view of Wu and/or Bradshaw.

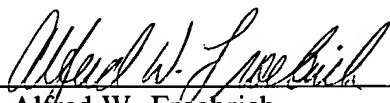
The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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